



Health, climate change and sustainability: A systematic review and thematic analysis of the literature

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Evidence of climate change and its impact continues to be accumulated, and it is argued that the consequences of climate change are likely to result in an increased demand on health services. It has been claimed that climate change presents new challenges for health services and that strategies should be adopted to address these challenges. **AIM:** The aim of this systematic review was to map published literature on health, climate change and sustainability by categorising papers according to their focus on effects, strategy and actions, and to provide a thematic analysis of their content. **METHODS:** Systematic searches were conducted via a range of healthcare related databases i.e. Pubmed, Medline, CINAHL, AMED, ASSIA, IBSS and ISI Web of Knowledge. Searches focussed upon papers published in English between 1998 and 2008. Retrieved papers were studied by the authors in order to inform the thematic analysis of their content. **RESULTS:** A total of 114 publications were retrieved, of which 36 met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review. These 36 publications were categorised and are discussed according to their focus on: effects/impacts, strategy/policy, action/examples. **CONCLUSIONS:** A number of papers report the potential health effects of climate change while others report policies and strategies to tackle these effects. However there is an urgent need to identify and report on the implementation of strategies to mitigate and adapt to these challenges and to publish real examples of actions. Actions that are taken need to be evidence/policy based, and implementations monitored, evaluated and published.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2872568>

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Meteorological Factors, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Solar Radiation, Temperature, Unspecified Exposure

Air Pollution: Ozone, Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

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Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Europe

European Region/Country: European Country

Other European Country : United Kingdom

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☒

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, General Infectious Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, E. coli, General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease: General Fly-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria

Tick-borne Disease: General Tick-borne Disease, Tick-borne Encephalitis

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

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mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Review

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified